

EXTENSION OF EXPIRING TARIFF LANGUAGE – FILING OF CR – 102 FORM

BRIEFING PAPER

Prepared for the
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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this briefing paper is to provide background information and specific wording recommendations on minor modifications needed for Washington State Ferries' (WSF) tariff.

BACKGROUND:

The 2007 legislative session established a fare freeze until the fall of 2009, and identified a cycle of annual increases every fall thereafter. This differs from the previous tariff cycle change effective date of May 1. In the tariff WAC, there are several instances where specific tariffs are set up for an expiration of April 30. Because the current tariff will remain in effect until the fall of 2009, and will change on an annual basis in the fall thereafter (at the time period when WSF removes its peak season surcharge), it is necessary to modify the tariff WAC 468-300-010, 020, and 040. Otherwise, certain tariffs will expire.

ACTION/OUTCOME:

With approval or modification of the proposed language changes identified in this position paper, the proposal can be filed in a CR 102 form with the Code Reviser between February 15 and February 20. A Commission Hearing will need to occur between March 25 and March 27, 2008 to adopt or amend the proposal for implementation of the revised wording by May 1.

DISCUSSION:

Specific language changes proposed are as follows:

WAC 468-300-010 (passenger fares) and 020 (vehicles under 20' and motorcycles),

footnote pertaining to In Need Organizations

“IN-NEED ORGANIZATIONS – For qualified organizations serving in-need clients by providing tickets for transportation on WSF at no cost to clients, program would offer a monthly discount to approximate appropriate multiride media discount rates. Appointing bodies (those that appoint Ferry Advisory Committees) will nominate to the Washington State Transportation Commission those organizations that meet the criteria of the program. The Commission will review such nominations and certify those organizations that qualify. The following criteria will be used for nominating and certifying in-need organizations: Nongovernmental and not-for-profit organizations whose primary purpose is one or more of the following: Help clients with medical issues; provide clients with low-income social services; help clients suffering from domestic violence; provide clients with employment seeking services; and/or help clients with Social Security. Travel will be initially charged based on full fare and billed monthly. The credits will be approximately based on the discount rates offered to multiride media users applicable on the date of travel. *This program will expire after April 30, 2008.*”

Staff proposal: strike the language shown in italics. If the Commission desires to maintain it as a pilot program, the expiration date should be changed to October 10, 2009.

WAC 468-300-010 (passenger fares) and 020 (vehicles under 20’ and motorcycles), footnote pertaining to Bundled Single Fare Media

“BUNDLED SINGLE FARE MEDIA – WSF may bundle single fare types into multiple trip books as a customer convenience. This media shall be valid only *until the first of May following the date of purchase* after which time the media shall not be accepted for passage. Remaining value will not be eligible for refund or exchange. For mail order deliveries, WSF may add additional days to allow for delivery time. Anacortes to San Juan Islands senior/disabled fares will be bundled at the applicable early week price.”

Staff proposal: replace italicized language with, *through October 10, 2009.*

WAC 468-300-040 (oversized vehicles), footnote #2 pertaining to San Juan Interisland Transfers

“TRANSFERS – Tolls collected westbound only. Oversize vehicles traveling westbound from Anacortes may purchase a single intermediate transfer when first purchasing the appropriate fare. The transfer is valid for a 24-hour period and is priced as follows: May 1, 2007 – *April 30, 2008*, \$56.50 base season, \$76.25 peak season.”

Staff proposal: replace italicized language with, *October 10, 2009.*

RECOMMENDATION:

Direct staff to file CR 102 form with proposal to make necessary time extensions to the WSF tariff.

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